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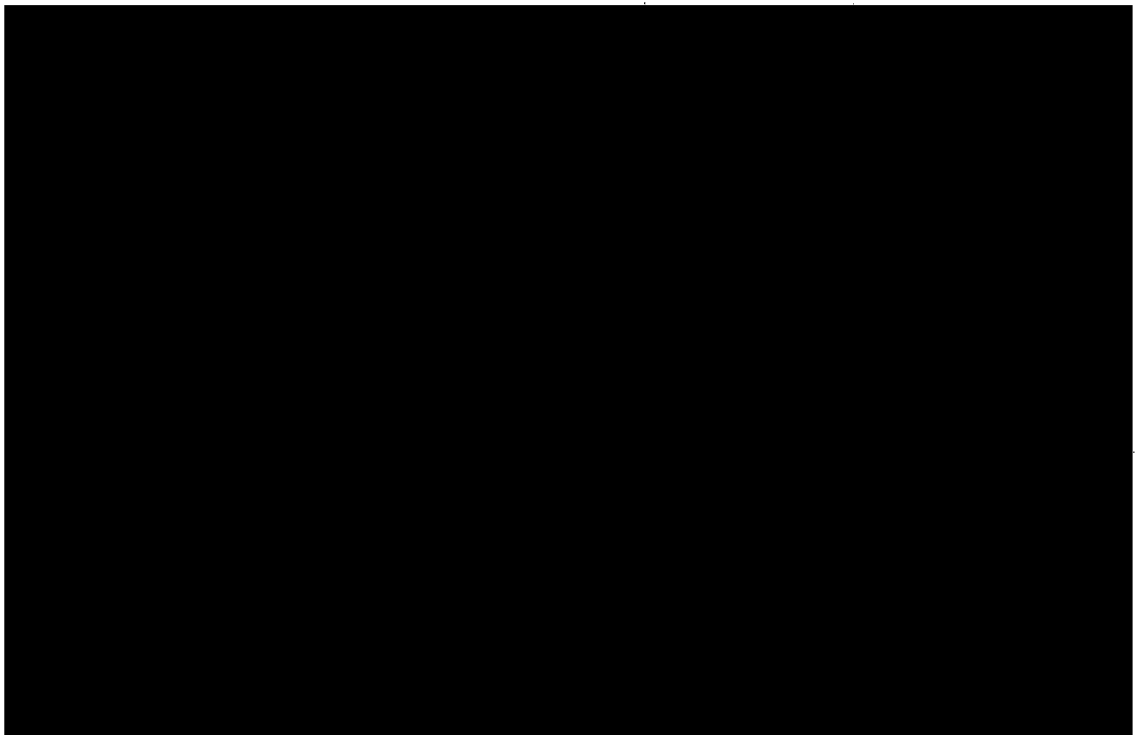
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SPECIAL ANALYSES

JAMAICA: Election Outlook

CIA

The moderate opposition Jamaica Labor Party, led by Edward Seaga, is favored to defeat Prime Minister Manley's People's National Party in the election tomorrow. Seaga would have greater support from both business and organized labor, but he still would have difficulty restoring political and economic stability.

The most reliable poll taken last week showed Labor ahead in 11 of the island's 14 parishes. It indicated that Seaga's strong effort in the countryside--which holds more parliamentary seats than the urban centers where Manley has been making headway--would carry the election for the Labor Party by over 11 percent of the popular vote and probably by over a two-thirds majority in the 60-member House of Representatives.

Manley's aggressive campaign gives him an outside chance to win. There are enough uncommitted voters to turn the tide, although holdouts traditionally have split their votes fairly evenly between the two parties.

Manley's party also believes that it has gained by blaming Seaga for the recent surge of urban violence and probably will try to improve its chances further by using thugs to scare off opposition voters on election day. This strategy helped pad the vote for Manley in 1976 but appears less promising this year because the Labor Party has built up its own street cadre and because the security forces now generally support Seaga.

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A Labor Government

The 50-year-old Seaga, a strong nationalist, is the candidate of the local private sector. Seaga is an internationally respected economic planner and manager, and his economic recovery program would emphasize a more vigorous market economy, greater interaction with the US market, and a determined pursuit of Western investment. He probably would continue Manley's popular effort to restore rural programs that were neglected by previous Labor governments. [REDACTED]

Seaga would take immediate steps to reschedule Jamaica's largely US-held foreign debt, now totaling \$1.3 billion. Even though he would resume negotiations to restore credits from the International Monetary Fund, he would try hard to ease some of the austerity requirements that he believes helped weaken Manley's political position. [REDACTED]

The Labor Party leader also would bargain aggressively with Washington for better trade and aid concessions. He would reassure US bauxite companies operating in Jamaica but would hold the line on Manley's efforts to increase Jamaican shares in all foreign holdings. [REDACTED]

In foreign affairs, Seaga would be likely to redefine but not abandon Manley's basic policy of nonalignment. He would move closer to the US and away from what he sees as Manley's excessive devotion to relations with Cuba and with the Third World. [REDACTED]

Manley's Reelection

If reelected, Manley probably would move toward the center [REDACTED] to consolidate his domestic position and to secure western aid. He would try to reschedule the national debt, resume negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, make peace offerings to the battered private sector, and invite US investors to begin or expand local operations. Manley would portray himself as a democrat who freely called and honestly faced an early open election and would increase his requests for assistance from traditional sources [REDACTED]

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In the long term, however, Manley would have little chance of rallying the demoralized business community, stemming an increased exodus of professionals and skilled workers, and checking the resurgence of young radicals in his party. Unable to restore productive capacity, Manley would be driven toward increasingly authoritarian and radical measures. The radicalization process probably would be facilitated by the erosion of organized opposition in the country. [REDACTED]

Cuban Assistance

[REDACTED]

If Seaga wins, the Castro regime probably would hope that he still would support Cuba's increasingly successful efforts to break out of the regional diplomatic isolation imposed nearly two decades ago. [REDACTED]

Seaga would reduce but not eliminate Cuban influence. He has said publicly that he would expel the Cuban Ambassador, who has publicly maligned Seaga and the Labor Party, but he probably would maintain diplomatic relations with Havana. Seaga has indicated he would support the continuation of Cuban humanitarian assistance to Jamaica, especially the provision of desperately needed medical personnel in the countryside. [REDACTED]